

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Announces Appointments to Commissions and Boards

Topeka – Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced today numerous appointments to boards and commissions.

“I appreciate the willingness of these Kansans to give of their time, energy, and talent. With their help, we will make our great state even better,” Governor Brownback said.

Kansas Human Rights Commission

The mission of the Kansas Human Rights Commission is to prevent and eliminate discrimination and assure equal opportunities in all employment relations, to eliminate profiling in conjunction with traffic stops, to eliminate and prevent discrimination, segregation or separation, and assure equal opportunities in all places of public accommodations and in housing. The six member board is appointed by the governor. The Governor’s appointments must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Melvin Neufeld, Ingalls, spent more than 25 years in service to the State of Kansas. During most of this time, he represented the people of the 115th district in the Kansas House of Representatives where he chaired numerous committees and was elected by his fellow lawmakers to be Speaker of the House. A strong advocate of health care and early childhood development issues, Neufeld also has served on numerous national committees and councils dedicated to promoting evidence-based policymaking.
- Josh Ney, Lawrence, is currently the principal at Knutzen and Ney, PA, the First Assistant County Attorney at the Jefferson County Attorney’s Office and Executive Director of KLEAR, Inc. He earned his BA in Global Studies from Northwestern College and his law degree from Washburn University School of Law.

Kansas Lottery Commission

The Kansas Lottery Commission holds monthly meetings at lottery headquarters in Topeka. The five commissioners are appointed by the governor to serve alternating four-year terms. The commission consults with and advises the Executive Director in establishing policy, approving major contracts, rules and regulations for lottery games and promotions, and approving the annual budget. The Governor’s appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Catherine Moyer, Ulysses, is currently the Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Pioneer Communications in Ulysses. She earned her BA from Middlebury College in Vermont and her JD from Washburn University School of Law.

Agricultural Remediation Board

The Kansas Agricultural Remediation Act in 2000 created the remediation program for the purpose of reimbursing responsible, eligible parties for remediation costs. Corrective action costs incurred after January 1, 2004, shall be submitted to the Board within two years after incurring the costs. The remediation fund is funded by an annual fee on pesticide products, pesticide dealers, grain storage, fertilizer products and custom blenders. The fund is administered and managed by the seven-member board appointed by the Governor. The Kansas Senate must confirm the Governor's appointees.

- Kamyar N. Manesh, Olathe, has been a board member of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board since 2000. Manesh received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas in 1978, and his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri in 1984. He is an active member of the American Institute of Hydrology, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers.
- Brian Norton, Girard, graduated from the University of Missouri in 1996 with a degree in Agricultural Economics. As a sales representative for Syngenta Crop Protection, Norton has earned numerous distinctions and awards. Norton is an active member in the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association.
- Laura Pearl, St. Marys, has been a board member of the Kansas Agriculture Remediation Board since its inception in 2000. She has worked for J.B. Pearl Sales and Service, Inc. in St. Marys for nearly 20 years as Office Administrator and as a business partner at MJ's Coffee House and Gifts for the last eight years.

Kansas State Banking Board

The nine member Kansas Banking Board is appointed by the Governor. The board serves in an advisory capacity to the office and is comprised of six banker members (with a minimum of five years of state banking experience), and three public interest members. Four banker members represent each of the state's four congressional districts. The other two banker members represent the state at large. The board has responsibility for the approval of new charters and branches as well as other activities. The Governor's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Thomas Pinter, Hays, has more than 40 years of experience in the banking industry. He is currently Director and Loan Committee member at Bank of Hays. His background working with troubled banks through the 1980's and 1990's gives him a solid basis upon which to deal with the current fiscal environment.

Kansas Development Finance Authority

The powers of the Kansas Development Finance Authority are vested by statute in a five-member Board of Directors who are appointed by the Governor to staggered four-year terms of office, subject to confirmation by the Kansas Senate. At least three of the appointed members must be representative of the general public, and not more than three of the five Board members can be of the same political party. The Governor's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Suresh Kumar, CPA, MBA, Overland Park, is a first generation immigrant from India and an entrepreneur who is active in civic and business community initiatives in the Kansas City area. He is the principal of Kumar Consulting, PA, a CPA and business consulting firm.

University of Kansas Hospital Authority

The University of Kansas Hospital Authority is the public oversight body that governs the operations of the hospital at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Membership on the Authority includes six individuals who hold university-related positions serving as ex-officio members of the Authority, and eight others appointed by the governor. The Governor's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Robert Honse, Lawrence, was first appointed to the University of Kansas Hospital Authority in 2008. He spent most of his professional career working in the agriculture/chemical industry. Honse is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and an Ordained Deacon in the Episcopal Church.

Kansas Public Employees Retirement Board of Trustees

The KPERS Board of Trustees is comprised of nine members. Four are appointed by the Governor, two are appointed by legislative leaders, two are elected by Retirement System members, and one is the elected State Treasurer. All serve four year terms. The Governor's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- Chris Long, Mission Hills, is the President and Founder of Palmer Square Capital Management in Leawood. Long played college basketball for Princeton University, where he earned his BA in Economics. He also has an MBA from Harvard University. Long's experience includes work with JP Morgan and Co., The Lee Putnam Venture Partners, Morgan Stanley and Co., Sandell Asset Management and Prairie Capital Management.

Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission

The CILLRW Commission is a compact of five states, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana who oversees the management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste within the states. The Governor's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate.

- John Mitchell, Lawrence, has more than 31 years of experience in the field of environmental protection and 19 years of experience as a professional manager. He earned his BA in Biology and Microbiology, and his MS in Environmental Health Science from the University of Kansas. He is currently the Director of the Division of Environment for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

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